NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 950181/2019

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 10/18/2019

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NEW YORK

\_\_\_\_X

NIKKI HENRY,

Index No.

Plaintiff,

-against-

**SUMMONS** 

JOHN DOUGLAS GRAHAM (a/k/a Douglas Graham),

Defendant.

TO THE ADOLE MARCH DEEDNIN AND

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorneys an

Answer to the Complaint.

If this Summons is served upon you within the State of New York by personal you must respond

within TWENTY twenty (20) days after the service, exclusive of the day of service. If thus

Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York, you must respond

within THIRTY (30) days after services is completed, as provided by law. In case of your failure

to answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: New York, New York October // , 2019

Paul D'Emilia

Attorneys for Plaintiff,

Nikki Henry

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

NIKKI HENRY,

Index No.

Plaintiff,

-against-

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT** 

JOHN DOUGLAS GRAHAM (a/k/a Douglas Graham),

Defendant.

Plaintiff, Nikki Henry, by and through her attorneys, Paul D'Emilia, as and for her Complaint against John Douglas Graham (a/k/a Douglas Graham), alleges as follows:

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This action concerns the rape and sexual abuse of a minor by an adult and is brought pursuant to the newly-enacted Child Victim Act, CPLR § 214-g (the "CVA").

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant pursuant to CPLR § 301 and § 302 because at all times relevant to this Complaint the Defendant was a resident of New York County and the tortious acts giving rise to this Complaint occurred in New York County.
- 3. This Court also has jurisdiction over this action because the amount of damages sought by Plaintiff exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.
- 4. Venue of this action is proper in the County of New York pursuant to CPLR § 503 in that a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in the County of New York.

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**PARTIES** 

5. Plaintiff, Nikki Henry is presently a resident of the State of Connecticut.

6. Defendant, John Douglas Graham (a/k/a Douglas Graham) ("Graham"), upon information and belief is presently a resident of the State of Connecticut. At all times relevant to this Action, Graham was a resident of New York County.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 7. Ms. Henry is a national of the Commonwealth of Dominica ("Dominica").
- 8. Ms. Henry's birthday is November 11, 1981.
- 9. In the 1990's, Ms. Henry's father worked for the Dominican delegation to the United Nations; accordingly, the Henry family moved to New York.
- 10. In approximately 1995, at the age of fourteen, Ms. Henry was attending the United Nations International High School in New York.
- 11. At this time, Ms. Henry was also a fashion model, affiliated at that time with Elite Model Management.
- 12. Graham, who was born on or about June 17, 1950 was at this time approximately 45, and worked as a Partner and Director for KPMG, had an insatiable interest in female teen models, particularly of African descent, and regularly attended events featuring them.
- 13. It was at this time (approximately 1995) and through her modeling that Ms. Henry first met Graham an adult 31 years her senior.
- 14. Despite her age, Graham took an immediate interest in Ms. Henry and instigated a social relationship with her.
  - 15. He induced her to leave school to meet him, initially for lunch.
- 16. In June of 1995, while Ms. Henry was still fourteen, Graham began inducing Ms. Henry to meet him during the daytime and working hours, at hotels in New York City.

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17. Graham met with Ms. Henry at hotels in New York City (his place of domicile), during working hours, using, upon information and belief, a company travel program and credit card provided to him by his employer KPMG.

- 18. At these hotel meetings, Graham initiated sexual contact with Ms. Henry.
- 19. At first, when she was only fourteen, Graham induced Ms. Henry to perform oral sex on him.
- 20. The meetings, and sexual contact, between Graham and Ms. Henry continued on a regular basis through the remainder of Ms. Henry's age of minority.
- 21. By the time Ms. Henry was sixteen years of age, Graham induced Ms. Henry to have sexual intercourse with him at their hotel meetings in addition to other sexual activities, including oral sex and other sadomasochistic conduct.
- Also by the time Ms. Henry reached sixteen years of age, Mr. Graham induced her to have overnight meetings at hotels, in addition to daytime, working hour meetings. These hotel meetings were, at this time, always in New York City, the place of Graham's domicile. As noted above, upon information and belief, these hotel meetings were paid for through a KPMG company travel program and credit card provided to Graham by virtue of his status as a partner and director there.
- 23. At approximately the age of seventeen, and while still a minor, Ms. Henry completed high school and began attending college in Missouri.
- 24. The sexual contact initiated by Graham continued even then. Graham would travel to Missouri to engage in sexual contact with Ms. Henry, and would also pay for her to travel to New York to engage in sexual contact with her there.
- 25. Ms. Henry, a minor, was not legally capable of consenting to any of the above sexual contact with Graham, which spanned the vast majority of her teenage years.

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individuals of ill repute now living and deceased.

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26. Rather, Ms. Henry was chosen and groomed by Graham at a very young age for sexual and psychological abuse.

27. Mr. Graham was a friend and associate of Robert Maxwell, and upon information and belief, refined his appetites for young women, sadomasochistic sex, and "dungeons" through his friendship with Maxwell and his entourage which included Ghislane Maxwell and other

28. Mr. Graham's sexual proclivities, and particularly his sexual attraction and sexual contact with young girls, was a "known secret" to those who knew him, including his employer KPMG.

- 29. Indeed, eventually, Mr. Graham began bringing Ms. Henry to events attended by his co-workers at KPMG, wherein one of them remarked that Graham "liked young African girls."
- 30. Upon information and belief, KPMG, an audit firm, was well aware of Graham's conduct by virtue of the fact that although he lived in Manhattan he was charging hotel rooms in mid-town Manhattan on the KPMG travel program.
- 31. Graham's repeated rape and sexual abuse of Ms. Henry robbed her of her adolescence.
- 32. Graham's repeated rape and sexual abuse of Ms. Henry constitute sexual offenses as defined in article one hundred thirty of the New York State Penal Law.
- 33. Ms. Henry has relived the abuse and sexual assault she has suffered at Graham's hands countless times.
- 34. As a result of Graham's conduct described herein, Ms. Henry has suffered and will continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, severe and permanent emotional distress, and physical manifestations of emotional distress. Ms. Henry was prevented from obtaining the full enjoyment of life; has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological

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treatment, therapy, and counseling; and has incurred and will continue to incur loss of income and/or loss of earning capacity.

### AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION, PLAINTIFF **ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:**

#### [INTENTIONAL TORT/ SEXUAL ABUSE]

- 35. Ms. Henry repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.
- 36. Graham did sexually assault, sexually abuse, and/or have sexual conduct with Ms. Henry, a minor, in violation of the laws of the State of New York.
- 37. As a direct result of Graham's conduct, Ms. Henry has suffered severe emotional and physical distress including physical, psychological, and emotional injury, has required medical care, has lost earnings, has incurred loss of future earnings and/or earning capacity, and has and will continue to suffer and endure great pain and suffering.
- 38. By reason of the foregoing, Graham is liable to Ms. Henry for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

## AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION, PLAINTIFF ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:

#### [BATTERY]

- 39. Ms. Henry repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.
- 40. By repeatedly sexually assaulting, sexually abusing, and/or having sexual contact with Ms. Henry, a minor incapable of consent, Graham acted so as to cause repeated unjustified, harmful, and offensive physical contact with Ms. Henry.
- 41. As a direct result of Graham's conduct, Ms. Henry has suffered severe emotional and physical distress including physical, psychological, and emotional injury, has required medical

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care, has lost earnings, has incurred loss of future earnings and/or earning capacity, and has and will continue to suffer and endure great pain and suffering.

42. By reason of the foregoing, Graham is liable to Ms. Henry for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

# AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION, PLAINTIFF ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:

#### [ASSAULT]

- 43. Ms. Henry repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.
- 44. By repeatedly sexually assaulting, sexually abusing, and/or having sexual contact with Ms. Henry, Graham placed Ms. Henry, a minor, in imminent and reasonable apprehension of harmful and offensive conduct.
- 45. As a direct result of Graham's conduct, Ms. Henry has suffered severe emotional and physical distress including physical, psychological, and emotional injury, has required medical care, has lost earnings, has incurred loss of future earnings and/or earning capacity, and has and will continue to suffer and endure great pain and suffering.
- 46. By reason of the foregoing, Graham is liable to Ms. Henry for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

# AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION, PLAINTIFF ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:

## [INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS]

47. Ms. Henry repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.

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48. The sexual abuse of Ms. Henry by Graham when Ms. Henry was a minor was extreme and outrageous conduct, beyond all possible bounds of decency, and was atrocious and intolerable in a civilized society.

- 49. Graham knew and disregarded the substantial probability that his conduct would cause severe emotional distress to Ms. Henry.
- 50. The physical contact described above was wanton and malicious and Graham intended to cause, or disregarded a substantial likelihood of causing, severe emotional distress.
- 51. As a direct result of Graham's conduct, Ms. Henry has suffered severe emotional and physical distress including physical, psychological, and emotional injury, has required medical care, will require future medical care, has lost earnings, has incurred loss of future earnings and/or earning capacity, and has and will continue to suffer and endure great pain and suffering.
- 52. By reason of the foregoing, Graham is liable to Ms. Henry for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

# AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION, PLAINTIFF ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:

# [NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS]

- 53. Ms. Henry repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth fully herein.
- 54. The sexual abuse of Ms. Henry by Graham when Ms. Henry was a minor was extreme and outrageous conduct, beyond all possible bounds of decency, and was atrocious and intolerable in a civilized society.
- 55. Graham knew or should have known that a reasonable person would have suffered emotional distress as a result of his actions.

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56. Graham's reckless and careless disregard for the likelihood of causing emotional distress to Ms. Henry caused Ms. Henry to suffer extended and increasing emotional distress.

and physical distress including physical, psychological, and emotional injury, has required medical

As a direct result of Graham's conduct, Ms. Henry has suffered severe emotional

care, will require future medical care, has lost earnings, has incurred loss of future earnings and/or

earning capacity, and has and will continue to suffer and endure great pain and suffering.

By reason of the foregoing, Graham is liable to Ms. Henry for compensatory and 58.

punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

PRAYER FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES

Ms. Henry repeats and realleges each of the foregoing allegations as if set forth 59.

fully herein.

57.

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60. The conduct of Graham as described herein was done with the utter disregard for

the profound potential injuries which would ensue to Ms. Henry, with depraved indifference to the

health and well-being of Ms. Henry, and with Graham's knowledge that he was subjecting a minor

to sexual crimes.

61. This wanton, reckless, and malicious conduct demonstrates a conscious

indifference and utter disregard for the health, safety, and well-being of others, including Ms.

Henry.

62. As a result of the foregoing, Ms. Henry is entitled to recover punitive damages in

an amount to be determined by the trier of fact.

WHEREFORE, Ms. Henry demands judgment against Graham as follows:

A. Awarding compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;

B. Awarding punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;

C. Awarding attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements of this action; and

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D. Awarding all such other and further relief which this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York October , 2019

By: Paul D'Emilia

30 Wall Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10005

(917) 701-4067

Attorneys for Plaintiff, Nikki Henry

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# **VERIFICATION**

| STATE OF NEW YORK  | )     |
|--------------------|-------|
|                    | ) ss. |
| COUNTY OF NEW YORK | )     |

**NIKKI HENRY**, being duly sworn, deposes and says that: I am the individual plaintiff in the captioned action. I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint, and know the contents thereof. The same are true to my own knowledge, except as to the matters based upon information and belief. As to those matters, I believe them to be true.

NIKKI HENRY

Sworn to before me this day of October 2019

Notary Public

SONIA BONAVENTURE
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01BO6145436
Qualified in Suffolk County
My Comm. Expires May 8, 2018